(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new system would start functioning and how far this would help to cut the delays in timely relaying of information, to control loss of life and property?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Communication of real time data from Tide Gauges and Bottom Pressure Recorders to the Early Warning Centre at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad is very critical for generating timely tsunami warning and advanced communication facilities are being established. At present real-time data is being received at INCOIS through V-SAT connectivity from the already installed Tide gauges and Bottom Pressure Recorders (BPRs). The Seismic data from the Real Time Seismic Monitoring Network being installed by India Meteorological Department (IMD) will be received at Central Receiving Station in INCOIS through V-SAT connectivity. The entire system is expected to be operational by September 2007. A Virtual Private Network for Disaster Management Support (VPNDMS) node has been setup at INCOIS that facilitates reliable connectivity to the Ministry of Home Affairs for dissemination of Warnings.

(c) The tsunami warning system is scheduled to be operational by the end of September 2007. Coastal areas will be identified with respect to their vulnerability to various scenarios of tsunamis using tsunami models. The warnings will be issued within an hour of Tsunami causing Earthquake, while the tsunami alert will be generated within half an hour of the Earthquake. This will give a minimum of two hours to inhabitants in the coastal India, except for Andaman & Nicobar Islands. For the islands, the alert itself will be warning.

Setting up of mega food parks

140. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high-level committee on manufacturing, headed by the Prime Minister, approved five mega food parks in the country on a fast track mode;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one park is going to be set up in Andhra Pradesh through public private partnership;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any budgetary grant is provided to the above parks;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the above food parks are part of the 30 food parks to be set up in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, by when the above five food parks are going to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (g) The Ministry has proposed a new scheme of mega food park in the country for the XI Five Year Plan, which is envisaged to be a well defined agri/horticultural processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and will established supply chain. The proposed scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link

agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimize wastages and improve farmers' income. The proposed scheme is under finalization in consultation with Planning Commission for inclusion in the XI Five Year Plan and upon approval & notification of the scheme, formal proposals would be invited. Meanwhile, the Ministry has awarded a pre-feasibility study for identification of locations for five Mega Food Parks initially at five regions, which *inter-alia* includes the Southern Region. 30 Mega Food Parks are envisaged to be set up under the scheme during the XI Plan period.

Storage facility for fruits and vegetables

141. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of fruits and vegetables are wasted in the country every year due to shortage of proper storage facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) According to the Vision 2015 report prepared by Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of Agricultural food items (including fruits) is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crore annually, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. Wastage of fruits and vegetables is estimated to be of the order of 22% due to such inadequate facilities.

The Government, through its schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures, facilitates creation of food related infrastructure aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, through its plan schemes during Xth Plan, has been promoting development of infrastructure for food processing industries including cold storages as integral part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Park. During the Xth Plan, the Ministry has implemented a scheme for cold chain facilities whereunder asistance upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs was admissible to all implementing agencies. During the XI Plan, the Ministry is working on launching a revamped comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels-farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centers. The initiative being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.

Pending proposals for food processing industries

142. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the details of the proposals for food processing industries lying pending with his Ministry as on date, indicating the period of pendency of each proposal, the details in giving clearance to each of these proposals and by when all these proposals are likely to be cleared?